



SAFETY MONDAY

February 27, 2012

First Waste Collection Fatality of 2012

The first solid waste collection employee to be killed in a workplace accident this year died on January 9, 2012. A 30 year old helper was killed in Newark, New Jersey, when he attempted to climb onto the step of a truck that was moving forward. The helper fell and was run over by the truck. The accident occurred at 5:42 a.m. The employee leaves behind a wife and four children.

Collection workers should not climb onto the step of a moving garbage truck. It's dangerous, violates WASTEC's [ANSI Z.245.1](#) standard, and can be a fatal mistake. Each year, helpers are killed because they either jump on or fall off the steps of a moving garbage truck.

Why did this helper feel compelled to jump on a moving truck? Did he know it was dangerous to do so? Did he receive either initial or refresher safety training from his company? Was he wearing slip resistant footwear? These and related questions are being investigated by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA).

Every workplace fatality is a tragedy. Learn from this one so you or a co-worker do not become another, and leave grieving family, friends and co-workers.



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